Instructional Technology Newsline

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Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Instructional Technology Staff
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http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/
newsletters

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In This Issue . . .

◆ Instructional Technology Update

FY03 Technology Grants – TAG funding withholding and end-of-year reports
The Technology Grants program was assessed another withholding in late February. A letter detailing this cut is included in the March 5 mailing to school administrators. Specifically, the Department was asked to cut ten percent from the TAG grant program and the MOREnet contract.

This latest reduction will result in a 64.6 percent reimbursement rate to the Technology Acquisition Grant (TAG) program.

The reduction to the MOREnet contract should not affect services or costs as MOREnet has realized savings on circuits. As these multi-year contracts expire, MOREnet has been able to renegotiate or enter new lease agreements at lower rates.

FY03 Technology Grants – End-of-year reports
In his February 28 newsletter, the Commissioner reminded school administrators of the cut-off dates for grants and contracts. Please note the following deadlines.

- The FY03 TAG and Title IID formula grant final expenditure reports (FERs) must be filed (submitted online) by no later than May 15, 2003. The FY03 eMINTS FER must be mailed or faxed to the Instructional Technology section by no later than May 15, 2003.

- FERs should detail all known expenditures. These may include salaries and purchased services for activities conducted through June.

FY04 Technology Grants – Title IID eMINTS grants
While it is too soon to project funding for state programs next year, the Department is moving forward with plans for next year's Title IID competitive grant program. Congress passed a bill that would level-fund NCLB programs in 2003-2004. As such, the Department expects to receive around $8,000,000 in Title IID funding. With $4 million available for competitive grants, we expect to be able to support 40 second-year grants and approximately 30-32 new first-year grants. Applications for the Title IID eMINTS grants must be submitted to the Department by March 31, 2003.

Copies of program rules and guidelines, application forms, and program FAQ can be printed from the IT website at
http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/index.htm.

FY04 Technology Grants – Title IID formula and TAG grants
Application windows for FY04 Title IID formula grants and TAG grants will not be opened until the spring. Look for details in the April issue of *Newsline*.

District Technology Planning
Countdown to March 31, 2003 deadline
As reported in previous months, and because of new requirements set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act, over 400 Missouri school districts and charter schools must submit technology plans for state approval this spring. Districts can access technology planning assistance resources and the current scoring guide on the web at
http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/techplan.htm.

Technical assistance sessions available
The Missouri Educational Technology Professional Association (METPA) plans to provide additional technical assistance during the MOREnet spring conference, March 19-20. METPA members and officers will be available in the Drawing Room Terrace. Wednesday sessions start

at 9 a.m., with the last session beginning at 4 p.m. Thursday sessions begin at 9 a.m., with the last session beginning at 1 p.m. Technology plans will be reviewed in a group format, using the state-provided rubric.

Census of Technology (COT)
The COT 2002 report is near completion and should be posted by March 14. The 2003 Census will be collected during the April core data cycle and must be completed by April 15, 2003. The 2003 COT is very similar to the 2002 version, except for several items (determined to be no longer needed or useful) that were deleted. While we had expected to completely revamp the COT in 2003, we decided to wait until more was known about future NCLB and Title IID data requirements.

USF E-rate Program
Year 2002 (Year 5) funding
The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) issued the 23rd wave of letters for Year 2002 on March 3, 2003. Funding Year 2002 of the E-rate program provides support for services delivered July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. Wave 23 committed over $29 million in 91 letters to school and library applicants. The funding associated with this wave includes funding for PRIORITY ONE (telecommunications services and Internet access) services and PRIORITY TWO (internal connections) at the 90% discount level. To date, the SLD has committed nearly $1.8 billion in 28,475 letters for Year 2002. Additional waves will be issued every other week until the process is complete. Visit http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y5/ for more information on Year 2002 funding commitments.

Year 2003 applications – Form 471 window closes February 6, 2003.
The Form 471 application-filing window that opened on November 4, 2002 closed February 6, 2003.

New Service Provider Requirements Impact on Applicant's Form 472
Service Providers that provide e-rate discounted services or reimbursements have to file a Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) Forms for each funding year. The SLD has changed the approval process for Form 472 (BEAR) reimbursement payments that now require the associated vendors to have filed their SPAC Forms for the applicable funding year. The SLD announced that this requirement becomes effective for BEARs received after February 28.

The immediate impact for most applicants will occur with the filing of FY 2002 Form 472s after the February 28th cutoff. If, at that point, the vendor referenced by a FY 2002 Form 472 does not have a valid FY 2002 SPAC on file with the SLD, that BEAR will not be approved. To help determine the status of vendor SPACs, the SLD has added a new field to the data records available through its online BEAR/ SPIN Search. See http://www.sl.universalservice.org/Forms/SPIN_Contact_Search.asp. The far right-hand field for every vendor listing shows the funding years for which SPACs have been filed. For a FY 2002 Form 472 to be approved after February, this listing will have to include a "2002."

◆ **President Bush signs Education Bill**

On February 20, 2003 President Bush signed Public Law 108-7, an omnibus appropriations bill that includes FY 2003 appropriations for the Department of Education. A detailed table (last updated 02/26/03) showing the amounts provided for the Department can be accessed online in PDF or Excel formats at http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/budnews.html. The table also shows House and Senate action, the FY 2003 President's Request, and FY 2002 enacted appropriations.

Title IID was level funded at $695 million (compared to $700.5 million this year). Many of the other education technology programs that were proposed for elimination survived: 21st Century Learning Centers $992 million; the PT3 program $62 million; Community Technology Centers $32 million; Star Schools $9.9 million; R*TECs $9.9 million, and regional educational labs $67 million.

◆ Connections 2003: MOREnet Spring Technical Conference
--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

MOREnet will host Connections 2003, the annual spring technical conference on March 19-20, at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Mo. The conference is designed to provide information on current technologies and solutions as well as offer insight on the future directions of technology in education. It is targeted for those who manage and support technology, including, but not limited to, technology coordinators and technology support specialists who are current members of MOREnet.

Online registration is open Feb. 3-March 7:
http://www.more.net/services/conferences/spring2003/register.html.

This year's conference features:
- Keynote speaker - Michael A. Hodge, J.D., President, Security Liability Consulting, L.L.C.
- Technical breakout sessions - over 60 technical breakout sessions designed for technology personnel at all levels of technical experience.
- Roundtable sessions – roundtable discussions on various technical topics.
- Vendor fair - offers attendees the opportunity to meet with vendors to discuss their products.

Complete conference information is available at
http://www.more.net/services/conferences/spring2003/.

Mark your calendars now for the Missouri Educational Technology Conference, sponsored by DESE and MOREnet: Oct. 19-21, 2003, at Tan-Tar-A.

◆ Missouri Educational Technology Conference—October 19-21, 2003
--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet

 "Teacher-Driven Technology" is the theme for the 2003 Missouri Educational Technology Conference sponsored by Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet). The Missouri Educational Technology Conference provides information on current technologies, solutions and future directions for educators, administrators and technology specialists. Join more than 1,000 participants for over 100 presentations, workshops and hands-on demonstrations in the newest technology and techniques in the fields of education and educational technology. Visit more than 100 exhibits of the latest equipment and materials, all on display at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri.

For complete details visit the conference website:
http://www.more.net/services/conferences/fall2003/.

The online submission forms for conference presentations, student exhibits, and vendors will be available in early March at the conference website.

Presentation proposal applications will be accepted until April 15, 2003.

Missouri teachers may submit their students' technology projects for consideration as student exhibits until April 15, 2003.

Vendors to the educational technology community are invited to apply for booth space to exhibit their products and services. The application deadline is October 3, 2003.

Online registration for "Teacher-Driven Technology" will be available August 25 – October 3 from the conference website.

◆ SuccessLink Handheld Computer Conference
 --Submitted by Stacey Franks, SuccessLink

The SuccessLink Handheld Computer Conference will take place June 26th - 27th at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Misssouri. The conference is open to all school administrators, teachers and school technology coordinators.

Featured speakers include:
- Elliot Soloway & Mike Curtis of the University of Michigan
- Carolyn Staudt of the Concord Consortium
- Tony Vincent from Millard Public Schools, Omaha, Nebraska

Educators will learn how handheld computers in the classroom can be utilized to improve student learning as well as assisting with multiple administrative tasks and responsibilities. Cost is $250. Registration is now open on the SuccessLink website at http://www.successlink.org

◆ METPA Update
-Submitted by John Waite, METPA Vice-President
http://www.metpa.org

Technology Plans
METPA hosted a half-day review of tech plans on January 9th. Over seventy people attended and tech plans received peer reviews. METPA will also be available to review and answer questions concerning your technology plans at the spring MOREnet Technical Conference at Tan-Tar-A on March 19-20. METPA officers and members will be hosting sessions in the Drawing Room Terrace beginning on the hour (Wednesday starting at 9 am with the last session beginning at 4 pm; Thursday, beginning at 9 am with the last session beginning at 1 pm.) District technology plans will be reviewed, in a group format, using the state-provided rubric. The deadline for submitting plans to DESE is March 31.

◆ Show-Me TechKnowledge 2003

The second annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day was held on February 26, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda on the third floor,in Jefferson City. This was an opportunity for educators and students to showcase learning through technology to invited Missouri legislators, students, parents, and visitors. Representatives from various educational groups, businesses, and organizations throughout the state were supporters of the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day. Contact Bobbi Weekley @ computerhelp@ktis.net for more information about this year's event.

Thirteen school districts from across the state in grades K-12 displayed outstanding technology projects currently being used in Missouri classrooms to enhance learning and improve student achievement. Newsline will be sharing reports from the participating schools this month and in April.

Neosho R-V
Show Me Technology Day at the Missouri State Capitol was a day that the Neosho Middle School Teaminator students will remember for a long time. Teaminator students, Carter Marion and Nicole Jester, were impressive as they greeted and awed the Missouri State Representatives and Senators with their knowledge of technology and the ability to apply that knowledge within their core classes. One visitor to the booth (Sam Berkowicz, a retired veteran teacher and current chief of staff) expressed how impressed he was with the students' technological knowledge and how it was intertwined with history. Mr. Berkowicz referred to them as the future Katie Couric and Tom Brokaw of television.

Carter & Nicole had a busy day that began at 7 a.m. and ended at noon. During this time, they were able to meet their State Representative Kevin Wilson, and their Senator Gary Nodler, and share with them their knowledge and technological experiences. Representative Wilson took a special interest in the students by making them Pages for the day in the House of Representatives, introducing the students and their parents to the House of Representatives. The students were awarded the Outstanding Technology Project award by Representative Wilson on the floor of the House of Representatives minutes before session began.

The students have said how they will never forget this day and thank those who made it possible for them to share their experience with the Missouri legislators. According to Carter and Nicole, "the most exciting thing at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City, was whenever we told the people about our projects, were introduced by Representatives Wilson to the House of Representatives and we were made Pages for the day in the House of Representatives."

Branson R-IV
Branson Primary students received sad news on Monday night when the decision was made for the students to stay at home instead of traveling to Jefferson City. Due to the weather forecast and already ten inches of snow on the ground, it was decided to send the teachers with the projects. The news on Friday (2/28), our first day back to school was exciting. Ms. Ramer, a second grade teacher, Mrs. Seaman, the Primary Art teacher and Mrs. Hartzell, the Technology Director reported that everyone enjoyed the students' quilts, puppets and rugs. They also reported that they had met with Mr. Dennis Woods, Mr. Jerry Bough, and Mr. Maynard Wallace.

Mr. Woods invited the Branson's fourth graders to the Capitol for a tour. He also gave the teachers a tour of the House floor and explained the computer voting system.

Even though we were disappointed that the students weren't able to attend, we were extremely proud of their work. The students will be presenting the plaque we received for participating at the Show-Me TechKnowledge Day to the school board at the March Board meeting. The students will also be attending and teaching at the RCET Conference in Springfield, Missouri on March 5.

◆ MOREnet Shared Network and Videoconferencing Update
--Submitted by Hank Niederhelm, MOREnet
Network:
- MOREnet has completed the tail circuit migration to new vendors that were a result of a bid process.
- Internet growth for the fall semester continued to increase by ~40%. If this holds for the spring semester, we will experience a ~95% annual increase.

- MOREnet will be bidding for OC12 tiered Internet service in an effort to increase bandwidth and reduce costs.
- MOREnet will be bidding for 3 backbone circuits as the current contract will expire in September.
- MOREnet experienced a 30 hour outage on the Columbia to Kansas City backbone leg on February 8th – 9th. The outage was a result of one provider removing the configurations for the circuits in their equipment and a failure in another provider's equipment. MOREnet has asked for a formal report from the provider explaining what happened, how it happened, and what steps will be taken to ensure that it doesn't happen again. There was no impact to our customers as traffic re-routed through the backbone.

Video:

- Spring semester classes increased slightly over last fall semester. We currently have 104 class events per week.
- MOREnet continues to experience problems with the Radvision Gatekeeper. We have been testing the Polycom Path Navigator as a replacement. Tests have been successful and the new gatekeeper is significantly more stable. Path Navigator was put into production on February 23 during the maintenance window.
- MOREnet has been evaluating e-Conferencing solutions that enable customers to augment their distance learning activities. As part of this research, MOREnet is piloting Centra (http://www.centra.com) with a limited customer set. The pilot has generated much interest and positive feedback from the customers involved. MOREnet will present on Centra at the Connections 2003: Spring Technical Conference at Tan-Tar-A. Demos will also be available in the MOREnet room.
- MOREnet participated as a service provider hosting connections for the Megaconference. The Megaconference is a world-wide event showcasing H.323 technology applications. This is an annual Internet 2 and OARnet co-sponsored event.
- MOREnet will be providing video conferencing services for MODLA during the upcoming Missouri Distance Learning week in April.

MOREnet will be streaming events during the Missouri Life Sciences Week in partnership with University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the Danforth Center. The event will be held March 3rd through March 7th. For more information please visit http://lifesciencesweek.missouri.edu/.

◆ Missouri Schools and Programs in the News

Popular Bluff
Pam Lowe, eMINTS teacher from Popular Bluff, has an article published in Education World. Take a minute to read "No time For Boredom." http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/webwizard064.shtml Congratulations, Pam!

Alton
Congratulations to Julie Thompson, 3rd grade eMINTS teacher, whose webquest, *The Student Chronicles,* is now listed on the State Matrix of WebQuests. It is a Middle School /Communication Arts WebQuest. Check it out on
http://emints.more.net/resources/webquest/index.html

eThemes
Congratulations eThemes! Take a look! EThemes received an A+ rating from Education World's site review team! http://www.educationworld.com/awards/2003/r0203-07.shtml

Status of Internet2

Abilene, the Internet2 high-speed backbone network which enables nationwide testing of applications such as uncompressed high-definition television quality video, announced that the first transcontinental path in its nationwide upgrade to the next generation of networking is in service. When completed later this year, the upgrade will quadruple the capacity of more than 13,000 miles of network to 10 gigabits per second, more than 15,000 times faster than a typical home broadband connection. Abilene now has more that 25 state education networks participating.

The Abilene upgrade provides its more than 225 Internet2 member universities and research centers access to advanced networking capabilities, such as line-speed native IPv6 and scalable multicasting, required by advanced network applications that do not work well or at all on the commercial Internet. For more information about Abilene and Internet2, see http://www.internet2.edu/

Rural Schools Challenged By NCLB Act Requirements

The Rural School and Community Trust recently released the report "Why Rural Matters 2003: The Continuing Need for Every State to Take Action on Rural Education." It is the second analysis of data on education in rural America from a wide variety of sources. The report concludes that specific national policy attention to rural school problems is critically needed. The report finds that nearly one in three of America's school-age children attend public schools in rural areas or small towns of fewer than 25,000 people. Its authors suggest that the No Child Left Behind law is not giving rural schools a fair deal. The 13 states that have the most pressing needs include Alabama, Arkansas, the Carolinas, the Dakotas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Tennessee, and West Virginia. See http://www.ruraledu.org/.

Congress: Interest In Promoting Broadband Services

There are several members of Congress, particularly those representing rural areas, interested in promoting the development of a broadband or high-speed telecommunications infrastructure. Others want to leave this challenge to the private sector. The latter question the Administration's proposed expansion of the Agriculture Department's Rural Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, which makes $1.4 billion available for rural telecommunications companies. They also question the need for continuing the $2.25 billion a year for E-rate subsidies. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-La.), who has been a tough critic of the E-rate program, says the program is plagued by fraud and waste. Tauzin and fellow Republicans in the House and Senate have zeroed in on zeroing out the E-rate for several years. Source: Washington Post, 2/24/03

Wireless Services For Schools Are Expected To Grow Rapidly

A recent IN 2002 found that nearly 4,000 schools in the U.S. are making use of wireless local area networks, or LANs. To date, they have been more commonly found supporting university campuses, allowing students to move from class to class and around the campus, and to collaborate without necessarily having to be in one room or one building. A recent report, "Wireless Technologies in Education: Prospects for Improving and Extending K-12 School

Services," provides an overview and preliminary examination on how wireless technologies, such as wireless communications, networking, and hand-held computers, can help schools, and especially rural schools, overcome barriers to accessing affordable and advanced telecommunication services.

Resulting from a conference convened by ATEC and MARTEC, the report cites growing popularity of
"Wi-Fi" or wireless fidelity networks at colleges and schools around the nation. Wi-Fi is argued to be inexpensive and reliable. Market research firms report that Wi-Fi hardware shipments are expected to rise 65 percent annually. For many schools, there are still concerns relating to purchasing wireless networks as part of their applications for E-rate discounts. For a copy of the ATEC/MARTEC report, see Online Library, ATEC publications at www.the-atec.org/.

◆ Copyright Question of the Month

Q. May an educator (e.g. administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others upload an original student project onto a network server?

A. No Students are the owners of their original projects and permission must be obtained before the work is posted.

CAUTION: Please refer to district policy concerning identification of students by name, photograph, etc., and parent permission policy.

◆ Mark Your Calendar

March 1	Newsline published
13	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor's Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
19-20	METPA Technical Assistance for Technology Plan Writing at MOREnet Spring Conference, Drawing Room Terrace, Tan-Tar-A
25	Newsline articles due
31	Technology Plans due
31	FY04 eMINTS applications due
April 1	
7-8	eMINTS Grant Reading SuccessLink, Jefferson City, MO
10	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 pm) Governor's Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
24-25	Technology Plan Reading Rooms 450 & 470, Governor Office Building, Jefferson City, MO
25	Newsline articles due
May 1	Newsline published

◆ Upcoming 2003 Conferences

March 4-5	RCET-SW Conference University Plaza, Springfield, MO www.rcet.net
March 6-8	Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference 2003

	Louisville, Kentucky
	http://www.kentuckytlc.com
March 8-10	Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
	58th Annual Conference and Exhibit Show
	San Francisco, CA
March 13-15	International Technology Education Association: 65th Annual Conference
	Nashville, TN
	http://www.iteawww.org/D.html
March 17-19	Microcomputers in Education Conference
	Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona
	http://mec.asu.edu
March 19-20	MOREnet Spring Technical Conference
	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	Missouri Research and Education Network
March 19-20	HELIX (Higher Education Learning & Information eXchange) Conference
	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium)
March 30-April 1	Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL)
	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	www.MASLonline.org
April 29	TECH FORUM: Breakthrough Technologies for 21st Century Schools
	Hyatt Regency Chicago on the Riverwalk, Chicago, IL
	http://www.mailcubed.com/click.asp?x=4E28.11C2.2062787
June 26-27	SuccessLink Handheld Computer Conference
	Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO
	http://www.successlink.org
June 30-July 2	NECC 2003—Visions and Reflections
	Seattle, WA
	http://www.neccsite.org
July 17-18	Distance Learning Education: Is it the Classroom of the Future?
	(MoDLA Third Annual Conference) Sheraton Westport Hotel
	Westport Plaza, St. Louis,MO
	www.modla.org
October 19-21	Missouri Educational Technology Conference 2003: Teacher-Driven
	Technology
	Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
	Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
	Missouri Research and Education Network

◆ From the Mailbag

Schools Use Technology To Recruit Teachers From Abroad
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4213
Source: eSchool News staff and wire service reports
January 30, 2003

To combat a growing shortage of certified math and science teachers nationwide, at least one company is using videoconferencing technology to link states and school districts with prospective teachers overseas. The program provides a quick fix for schools scrambling to fill vacant teaching slots with highly qualified candidates as required under the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind Act.

 But the nation's largest teacher's union warns the practice does little to erase the high-risk, low-reward stigma that has driven many home-grown educators to work in the private sector.

"It's understandable that a lot of states are turning to this type of Band-Aid solution," said Daniel Kaufman, a spokesman for the National Education Association (NEA). "But it's a question of, how are [schools] going to deal with this [problem] in the long term?"

To staunch the bleeding at Calumet High School in Gary, Ind., Principal Leroy Miller turned to an unusual source to find a new science teacher when someone suddenly quit during the first week of school: India.

Miller tried to find a replacement through all the usual sources, but without luck. "It was getting difficult to find someone," he said.

The break came when Robert Beach, superintendent of the Lake Ridge school district, learned of an organization called USA Employment, which links teachers in India to jobs in American schools.

The Texas-based company invites schools that have been unable to fill teaching vacancies with highly qualified candidates to take advantage of the service, which links school administrators with prescreened educators from India who have expressed an interest in working in the United States.

The administrators conduct interviews with the candidates by phone, web camera, or videoconferencing technologies set up by the company and make their selections based on the results of these "virtual" interviews, said Jay Kumar, the company's founder. Before embarking on the interview process, clients also might choose to view several video introductions prepared by potential teachers on the company's web site. The organization already has placed teachers in 25 schools within 15 different school districts, Kumar said. Other states that reportedly have benefited from the service include Texas and Connecticut.

Home Computers and Internet Use in the United States, August 2000
http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p23-207.pdf
The report of the U.S. Census Bureau indicates the presence of homecomputers and use of the Internet is up from the previous years although the numbers are still down for poor and minority households.

NetDay CyberSecurity Kits for Schools
http://www.netday.org/cyber_security_kit.htm
Includes a Story about CyberSecurity for Children, action items to secure home computers, items school principals should know, and more.

New Horizons for Learning
http://www.newhorizons.org/index.html
Connections to brain research, ideas for transforming education, teaching and learning strategies, special needs/ inclusion, perspectives on the future, issues for lifelong learning, and more. Also includes a free quarterly journal.

Parenting and Discipline
http://www.crisiscounseling.com/Parenting/1Parenting.htm
Great articles, handouts, and advice for helping parents discipline their children.

Retiring Old Computers?
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4202
Discarded computer hard drives often contain sensitive information such as student addresses or academic records. Read about what two MIT students found in some discarded old computers, and find out how to get personal material off the machines.

◆ Internet Sites of Interest

Columbia Crew Picture Online
http://www.spacedu.com/STS-107%20Crew/sts107_crew.jpg
http://luna.tau.ac.il/~peter/MEIDEX/Gallery/Pictures/We/a1852.JPG
http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-107/sts-107-patch.jpg
http://ns.esn.gr.jp/~yakata/Images/nasa/sts107/sts107_crew.jpg
Here are some links to the sts-107 crew picture and patch that you may use for your classroom.

Chocolate—The First Week of March is Chocolate Week
Hershey's KidzTown
http://www.kidztown.com

Exploring Chocolate
http://www.exploratorium.edu/exploring/exploring_chocolate/index.html

Chocolate: Educators' Resources
http://www.fmnh.org/Chocolate/education.html

35 Chocolate Activities
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/TM/WS_candi_chocolate.shtml

History Links
http://www.besthistorysites.net
This site has an array of sites including Slavery, Civil War, and Westward Expansion.

Maps
Maps.com
http://www.maps.com

multimap.com
http://www.multimap.com

Educational Outline Maps
http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/

WorldAtlas.com
http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm

Test Your Geography Knowledge
http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/

Literacy
National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)
http://www.nifl.gov

Literacy Center - The Early Childhood Education Network
http://www.literacycenter.net

The Literacy Web at The University of Connecticut
http://www.literacy.uconn.edu

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site
http://www.carolhurst.com

RIF for Educators
http://www.rifnet.org

Internet Public Library
http://www.ipl.org

Read Across America, An NEA Project
http://www.nea.org/readacross/
NEA's Read Across America is calling for every child in America to be reading in the company of a caring adult on Monday, March 3, 2003 in celebration of Dr. Seuss's 99th birthday.

High School Business Technology/Career Education Sites:
"Your Teacher Link for Preparing Students For Success"
http://www.okcareertech.org/careertechconnect/index.htm

Paper Cutting
http://www.askasia.org/frclasrm/lessplan/puzzle.htm

Chinese Paper Cutting Examples
http://www.newton.mec.edu/Angier/DimSum/papercuts.html

Chinese Paper Cut Templates
http://www.newton.mec.edu/Angier/DimSum/china__dim_sum__paper_cut_.html

Newest eThemes
Holiday: Groundhog Day
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000598.html
Sites include information about the history of this holiday and why we celebrate it. Learn more about Punxsutawney Phil and groundhogs. Vote online for whether Phill will or won't see his shadow. There are many classroom activity ideas and online games, plus information about Canada's groundhog named Willie.

Math: Pattern Blocks and Tangrams
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000853.html
This is a collection of sites about pattern blocks and tangrams. There are several interactive sites that allow you to manipulate blocks and tangrams online. Also includes hands-on classroom activities that focus on polygons, area, angles, fractions, and patterns. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on geometric shapes.

Animals: Boston Terriers
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000938.html
These sites are about Boston terriers, a breed classified as nonsporting dogs. Read about their appearance, history, and personality traits. Watch a short video and view many photographs of these loyal animals.

Animals: Chihuahuas
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000936.html
These sites are about Chihuahuas, the world's smallest dogs. Learn about the history, appearance, and life span of this toy breed. Find out whether they make good pets for children.

Animals: Chimpanzees
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000946.html
These sites are about chimpanzees and their behavior, communication skills, habitat, diet, endangered status, and more. Learn how some chimpanzees in captivity can communicate through sign language and how others in the wild have learned to use tools. There are many video and audio files, plus online games.

Animals: Crocodiles
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000928.html
These sites are about the habitat, reproduction, appearance, and diet of the American, Morelet, Nile and Salt Water crocodile. Learn how these animals differ from alligators. Includes photographs, videos, audio clips, and an online quiz.

Animals: Dachshunds
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000959.html
These sites are about Dachshunds, a small, short-legged hound. Read about the breed's appearance, history, and personality traits. Watch a short video and view many photographs of these house pets.

Animals: German Shepherd
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000940.html
These sites are about German shepherds, a breed of herding dogs. Read about their history, appearance, and temperament. Find out why German shepherds are used as guide dogs, rescue dogs, and K-9 dogs.

Animals: Grizzly Bear
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000929.html
These sites are about the grizzly bear, which is a subspecies of brown bears. Learn about the bear's habitat, characteristics, diet, reproduction, and more. Includes an online quiz, a game, photographs, and video clips.

Animals: Jaguars
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000949.html
These sites are about the habitat, diet, and behavior of the elusive jaguar. Learn why they are endangered and why tracking them is so difficult. Includes movies, sound files, and an online game.

Geography: Landforms
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000923.html
These sites are about different types of landforms found around the world. Includes mountains, canyons, plains, beaches, and bays. There are photographs, drawings, online games, and activities. Includes links to eThemes Resources on rivers, oceans, lakes, erosion, and Missouri landforms.

Literature: "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000968.html
These sites have lesson plans, activity ideas, and online quizzes about the book "The Mouse and the Motorcycle." There are links to eThemes Resources on author Beverly Cleary and mice.

Trees: Redwoods
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000964.html
These sites are about redwood trees, also known as sequoias. Read about the characteristics of these tall trees and find out why they live hundreds of years. Take a virtual tour of several redwood parks. Includes photographs, illustrations, and online games and quizzes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on trees.

Animals: Saint Bernards
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000916.html
These sites are about Saint Bernards, a large breed of working dogs. Find out how much they eat, how much they weigh, and if they make good household pets. Learn more about the history of these dogs, including their role as rescue dogs in the Swiss Alps. There are photographs, illustrations, and a video.

Animals: Siberian Tigers
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000942.html
Read about the Siberian tiger, the largest of the wild cats. Includes basic facts about this endangered animals' unusual coloring, behavior, habitat, and diet. There are video clips, photographs, and an online game, plus a link to eThemes Resources on tigers and white tigers.

Animals: Spider Monkeys
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000935.html
These sites have information about different types of spider monkeys, including black-haired, long-haired, and woolly spider monkeys. Read about their appearance, life span, behavior, and habitat, and find out how they got their name. View several photographs and listen to audio clips of their calls. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on rainforests.

Animals: Toy Breeds
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000912.html
These sites are about the 17 types of dogs that are classified as toy breeds. Includes information about poodles, malteses, Yorkshire terriers, pomeranians, and more. Read about their history, temperament, and characteristics. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on Chihuahuas.

Animals: White Tigers
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000945.html
Learn about white tigers, which are a special type of animal belonging to the Bengal tiger species. Find out what causes their unique coloring and why they are not considered to be albino animals. There are many photographs and links to eThemes Resources on tigers and Siberian tigers.

Country: Russia
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000956.html
Learn about Russia's geography, language, culture, food, and history. Take a virtual tour of the Red Square and view many photographs of Russian people and places. Learn simple Russian words. There are also online games and quizzes.

Debate
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000980.html
These sites offer tips and activity ideas for sponsoring classroom debates at various grade levels. Learn how to prepare for a debate and how to improve your presentation skills. Includes transcripts and video clips of presidential debates from 1960-2000. There are links to eThemes Resources on writing.

Economics: Owning an Ice Cream Shop
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000975.html
Find out what it takes to start and run your own business. Includes information on different types of businesses, sales taxes, licenses and permits, and the characteristics of entrepreneurs. There are many sites about the ice cream industry, plus pricing information about items you would need for your own ice cream shop.

Readers Theater
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000969.html
Learn how to use readers theater in the classroom to promote an interest in literature. There are tips on how to adapt stories to scripts. Includes many sample scripts. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on online stories that can be adapted into scripts, plus a link to drama for students.

Updated eThemes

Animals: Sharks
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000350.html
These sites are about different types of sharks, including the great white shark. Learn about their habitat, diet, and behavior. View photographs and videos of sharks in the wild. Learn the truth behind common shark myths. Includes interactive quizzes and a live Webcam.

Animal Adaptations: Physical and Behavioral
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000219.html
These sites are about the behaviors and physical traits that enable animals to survive in their environments. Topics include camouflage, mimicry, and natural selection.

Economics: Basic Concepts
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000036.html
These sites are about various economic concepts, including supply and demand, opportunity costs, and natural, human, and capital resources. Includes many class activities and several online quizzes and interactive games. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on taxes.

Historic Documents: U.S. Constitution
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000026.html
These sites cover the history of the Constitution of the United States. Includes information about the Constitution's signers and the Articles of Confederation, a document that some consider the original constitution. Classroom activity ideas are included. There are links to eThemes Resources on the branches of government and the Bill of Rights.

Physics: Roller Coaster Design
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000430.html
These sites have information, pictures, and videos about roller coasters. Design your own roller coaster online or follow the hands-on instructions to make one in the classroom. Learn how physics concepts, such as potential and kinetic energy, apply to these rides. There are links to eThemes Resources on simple machines and the scientific method.

Writing: Purpose
http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000664.html
These sites are about the three main types of writing: persuasive, narrative, and expository. Includes examples of how to write in these different styles and graphic organizers to help students arrange their thoughts.